

REMARKS

Common Ownership

The present application and Tao et. al. U.S. Patent No. 6,304,291 were both owned by Sony Corporation at the time the invention of the present application was made.

Amendments

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended the claims to more particularly point out what Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the invention as claimed provides edge enhancements to increase edge detail of the captured images as part of the demosaicing process. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Objections

Objections to the Abstract

The Examiner objected to the abstract. Applicant has amended the abstract and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection. Applicant further respectfully submits that no new issues are raised by the amendment.

Rejections

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-15

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hel-or, U.S. Patent No. 6,404,918. Applicant does not admit that Hel-or is prior art and reserves the right to swear behind the reference at a later date. Nonetheless, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1-15 is not anticipated by Hel-or.

Hel-or discloses a demosaicing method for generating a full color image from a partially sampled image. During the demosaicing process, the luminance image

component is directionally smoothed along image edges to preserve edge detail. Thus, Hel-or discloses preserving edge detail during the demosaicing process.

Applicant respectfully submits that Hel-or does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of Applicant's invention as claimed. In independent claims 1, 6 and 11, Applicant claims providing edge enhancements to increase edge detail of the captured image as part of a demosaicing process. Because Hel-or's method preserves edge detail, Hel-or cannot properly be interpreted as disclosing an increase in edge detail during the demosaicing process. Thus, Hel-or does not teach or suggest the claimed element of providing edge enhancements to increase edge detail of the captured image as part of a demosaicing process.

Accordingly, Hel-or cannot be properly interpreted as anticipating Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1, 6 and 11 and the claims that depend on them. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention claims in claims 1-15 is not anticipated by Hel-or under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 16-19

Claims 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hel-or in view of Lathrop et. al. US Patent No. 6,288,743. Lathrop qualifies as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) because it issued after Applicant's filing date. Applicant does not admit that Lathrop is prior art and reserves the right to swear behind the reference at a later date. Nonetheless, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination does not teach each and every element of the invention as claimed in claims 16-19.

Lathrop discloses an electronic still camera that processes raw captured images into finished files. The raw captured image is initially processed by a demosaicing step to generate a full color image (referred to in Lathrop as a color filter array interpolation). The image is subsequently subjected to edge enhancements before being stored in the camera's nonvolatile memory.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Hel-or and Lathrop does not support a *prima facie* case of obviousness because the combination does not teach or

suggest each and every limitation of Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 16-19. Independent claim 16 claims providing edge enhancements to increase edge detail of captured images as part of a demosaicing process. Because Hel-or does not teach or suggest this limitation of claim 16, Lathrop must disclose at the least the missing element from claim 16 in order to have a proper *prima facie* case for claim 16 and claims 17-19 that depend on claim 16.

However, Lathrop does not disclose providing edge enhancements as part of a demosaicing process, because Lathrop discloses providing edge enhancement after the demosaicing process.

As neither Hel-or, nor Lathrop, teach or suggest providing edge enhancements to increase edge detail of captured images as part of a demosaicing process as claimed in claim 16, the combination cannot be interpreted as disclosing the claimed element. Therefore, the combination cannot render obvious Applicant's invention as claimed in claim 16, and claims 17-19 that depend on them and Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination.

Claim 20

Applicant respectfully submits that Tao et. al. U.S. Patent No. 6,304,291 is disqualified as prior art under 35 USC § 103(c) because of the common ownership of the Tao and the present application. Because Hel-or and Latrop do not teach or suggest providing edge enhancements to increase edge detail of captured images as part of a demosaicing process, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20 under 35 USC 103(a).

SUMMARY

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Eric Replogle at (408) 720-8300.

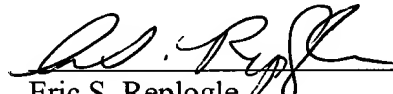
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR
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